amount after discussing it with the Chief Ministers. Whatever plan amount we are allocating to the States, we want to give it on instalment basis. In addition to that we have taken a Cabinet decision on cash-and-carry system. We are going to implement it from next year onwards. Whichever State requires power supply, they would get it only after payment to the State Electricity Boards. To make the State Electricity Boards viable I have already told you that we are taking a lot of steps. We are setting right the transmission distribution system and are also restructuring the State Electricity Boards. The Chief Ministers have also agreed to set up an independent regulatory commission. It is a good initiative to bring the State Electricity Boards back to health.

SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Sir, my question is very pointed. I would like to know what the Government proposes to defuse the crisis immediately? From January the supplies will be stopped. The Minister is saying so many other things, but he is not coming to this point. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government of India would intervene to save the State Government from this crisis. I would also like to know from the Minister whether the Ministry has got any plans or not. Do they want to sit idle and watch the situation? What is the Minister's answer to this question?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: In addition to various other steps, we have also taken steps to make the Electricity Boards viable and healthier.

SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: They are not viable.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: They have not stopped supplying coal to the Electricity Boards.

Setting up of a 100% Export-oriented petroleum refinery in Andhra Pradesh

*402. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government was issued a letter of intent by the Central Government for setting up of 120,000 BPD (6 million tons) petroleum refinery, as 100% export-oriented unit (EOU) in the State;

(b) whether economic viability of 100% export-oriented unit was not established as 75% of the products have to be sold at internal price and refinery margins world-wide were extremely poor;

(c) if so, whether a request was made to the Ministry to allow the State to convert existing licence to a domestic refinery;

(d) if so, whether this proposal is still pending with Government;

(e)whether the Ministry has considered the proposal; and

(f) if so, by when it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No LOI has been issued to Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up 100% EOU refinery.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the information available, the present requirement of the petroleum products in the country is 80 million tonnes. In a period often years from now, that is, by 2006, it would be 115 million tonnes. To fulfil this requirement, the Government has issued licences to various companies to produce 100 million tonnes. These companies are in various sectors. The public sector companies have been given licences to produce 27 million tonnes, the joint sector would be producing 47 million tonnes and the private sector would be producing 41 million tonnes. In the coming 5 to 6 years, these plants have to be set up; and the domestic requirement should be fulfilled. So, I would like to know from the Minister, what are the stages of these projects in the different sectors - the public sector, the joint venture sector and the private sector? I would also like to know from the Minister whether the Government of India is going to fulfil the 110 million tonnes requirement in the coming ten years period. Otherwise, what are the plans of the Government? I would request the Minister to kindly enlighten the House on this aspect.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the main question pertains to the setting up of a 100 per cent export oriented petroleum refinery in Andhra Pradesh, but the hon. Member has put

his supplementary question pertaining to all the refineries in the country. For the information of the hon. Member and the House, I would like to say that we have issued LOIs to five private sector refiners under the DTA; and for 7 EOE projects under EOU. As far as the capacity of the refineries is concerned, we would become self-sufficient by 2001. So far as present production capacity is concerned, it is 60 or 60.5 million tonnes. Our demand is 81 million tonnes. So, by 2001 we would become self-sufficient.

DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was asking the Minister about the position of the 110 million tonnes production capacity in the country. Regarding the export-oriented units under the private sector in Andhra Pradesh, the Minister has said that no licences were issued. In fact, an LOI was issued to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh had recommended a particular unit to the Central Government. It was a private unit. The Government of Andhra Pradesh wrote letters to the Government of India requesting to make that particular unit as a domestic refinery. That is why I had put this question. I would like to know from the Minister whether Government of India is willing to convert this particular unit into a domestic refinery.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of India has granted an LOI to M/s. Jindal Ferro Alloys Ltd. on 22.9.94 to set up a 6 million tonnes plant at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The proposed refinery is a 100 per cent export-oriented unit. As the hon. Member mentioned just now, the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra pradesh has written a letter to us to change the Jindal refinery project which is an export-oriented project under DTA. Sir, the parameters for EOU and DTA are different. That is why we are going to send a letter to the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, expressing our inability to consider this project. If the State Government wants to put up a DTA project, they have to apply for that afresh.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what the policy for giving licences for refineries to the public sector and the private sector is. What is the present state of affairs? You have just said that you are going to license seven units in the private sector. I would like to know as to what the conditions are. We would like to have a categorical reply from you in this respect. Secondly, what is going to be your policy about the multinationals? Are you also permitting them to enter the refinery sector?

SHRI T.R. BALLU: Sir, as far as EOU projects are concerned, we have received applications. For the EOU projects, FIBB clearance is necessary. If it is not a 100 per cent export-oriented unit, then the Board of Approval, under the Ministry of Commerce, will scrutinise it and then sanction it.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Are you encouraging them to the same extent as you are encouraging the private sector in India?

SHRI T.R. BALLU: Yes, Sir. The hon. Member is right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I pass on to the next question, I want to make a request to the Ministers so that they could instruct their Ministries and Departments to cyclostyle the answers a little more distinctly. I found it very difficult to read it today. I had to take a miscroscope.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Right, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not only this question, but almost all the questions have been cyclostyled like this.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Moreover, Sir, the construction of Q. No. 402 is not correct. The hon. Member wanted to know about 75 per cent DTA projects. In fact, it should have been 75 per cent export-oriented units. The formulation of the question itself is wrong.

Back-log of vacancies for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in Central Government Departments

*403. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:†
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of back-log of vacancies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Government Departments, category-wise; and

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sushil Kumar Sambhajirao Shinde